

>> in which technology plays a key role. When the ICAC Task Force program launched in 1998, it started with only 10 task forces across the United States.

The ICAC Task Force is an important partnership that focuses its efforts on protecting children online and holding

to an Internet complaint that has been called in from the public. Beyond that, many of the investigators dedicate countless hours patrolling the web for suspicious activity. The goal is to locate and arrest someone before they have the opportunity to offend on a child.

*There are several misconceptions about child pornography. Some believe child pornography refers to photographs or videos of babies in the bathtub. Others think of teenagers in pigtails and schoolgirl uniforms. The child pornography faced by ICAC Task Force officers is far darker and more grotesque than many could imagine.*

offenders accountable. The task force has officers at every level of law enforcement from local, state and federal departments in Kentucky.

Kentucky ICAC Task Force investigators are committed to making the Internet a safer place for Kentucky's children. Much like other areas of law enforcement, task force officers spend a lot of time reacting

Last year, Kentucky's ICAC Task Force investigated 699 documented complaints. Fifty-nine percent of those were proactive cases, or cases in which officers were actively seeking suspects in the process of committing a crime, hopefully before a child was victimized. Forty-one percent were reactive, or complaints in which the police responded after an alleged crime had occurred. These investigations include online enticement; obscenity directed toward minors; child prostitution; along with the possession, distribution and manufacture of child pornography. Of the documented complaints, 57 have already led to arrest, and several others are pending.

"CyberTips for Kentucky have increased dramatically," said Sgt. Mike Bowling assistant commander of the KSP Electronic Crime Branch. "Last year, we averaged maybe 60 to 70 tips a month. Now it's not uncommon for us to have more than 100 complaints each month."

CyberTips are sent to each state's ICAC Task Force Commander by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Launched in 1998, the CyberTipline offers a means of reporting incidents of child-sexual exploitation. The CyberTipline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since its inception, the CyberTipline has processed nearly 1.4 million reports.

The KSP Electronic Crime Branch also operates a digital forensic lab that processes digital evidence requests for agencies

